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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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The producers of the Central Intelligence Bulletin
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24 December 1965

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Indonesia: There has been no major change in the situation, but rumors of impending governmental changes continue to flood Djakarta.

In recent speeches President Sukarno has again emphasized the "positive contribution" of the PKI to the Indonesian revolution and has charged that the current anti-PKI campaign is creating deep divisions in Indonesian society. However, his remarks are increasingly falling on deaf ears, the US Embassy reports. The press is heavily editing his speeches, deleting much of his defense of the Communists. [*There are again reports circulating that Sukarno may soon leave the country.]

The mass slaughter of PKI sympathizers in East Java has now abated. However, the army still has many Communists under arrest in the area. Numbers of these prisoners are apparently being released to fanatic Moslem anti-Communists at night "for execution."

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USSR-India: [The USSR is apparently trying to forestall a hardening in India's position on Kashmir which might jeopardize the Shastri-Ayub talks scheduled to begin in Tashkent on 4 January.]

[redacted] Mos-
cow, has increased its efforts to ensure that close Soviet-Indian coordination is maintained in the period prior to the meeting at Tashkent. In response to a recent Soviet invitation to talk with Gromyko this weekend, Indian Foreign Minister Singh cut short a visit to Rangoon and prepared to fly to Moscow.

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[The Soviets probably harbor no illusions that the Tashkent meeting will bring any basic Indian-Pakistani accommodation. They apparently hope, however, that the summit talks will improve the atmosphere and prove useful in preventing the reopening of hostilities and further Chinese attempts to exploit unrest on the subcontinent.]

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East Germany: The 22 December reorganization of the East German central economic apparatus is apparently an attempt by the leadership to assert more effective political control over economic policy.

The leadership has shown deep concern about the dissension in party economic circles over the new five-year plan starting in January, and over the terms of the new five-year trade agreement with the USSR. The suicide of State Planning Commission chairman Erich Apel on 3 December probably was symptomatic of the seriousness of these internal party differences.

The new organizational steps are not a direct threat to East Germany's "new economic system." However, by undercutting the role of economic specialists in policy-making, the reorganization is likely to lead to new difficulties in the coming years.

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NOTES

UK-Rhodesia: [The Conservative Party's three-way split in Parliament this week on the Rhodesian issue temporarily strengthens Prime Minister Wilson's hand. Wilson mollified moderate and left-wing Tories by saying that he, too, opposes the use of force against Rhodesia. The party's right wing, deprived of that more dramatic issue, defied the party leadership by voting against oil sanctions, while some Tories voted with the government and some abstained.

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Guatemala: Colonel Miguel Ponciano, National Liberation Movement presidential candidate and persistent coup plotter may not feel the time is yet ripe for an overthrow of the Peralta government. In a private meeting with the US ambassador on 22 December, Ponciano asserted that he did not believe that there would be an attempt to oust Peralta in the near future. Even if his own plans have changed, however, dissatisfaction within the army is apparent at present and coup plotting continues among civilian politicians and military officers. Ponciano himself told the ambassador that if there should be a further deterioration of the security situation or if the March elections were rigged, the army might feel compelled to take action.

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*Dominican Republic: [Garcia Godoy told Ambassador Bunker on 22 December that he would inform the public before Christmas of the findings of the committee investigating the incident at Santiago. The president indicated, however, that there was only a possibility he would reveal at this time whatever action he will take on the report. Garcia Godoy is undoubtedly alarmed over the deepened antagonism between the regular armed forces and the rebels since the intensified polarization is leading to a buildup in tensions.]

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